

## **Executive Director Report**

### **September 25, 2008**

#### Budget

- Received member contribution from Bay Delta Authority for FY 07/08 leaving only outstanding contributions from ABAG, SJCOG and SACOG members. Member contributions for FY 07/08 have primarily been expended on the Management Plan Update consultant contract. Invoices for FY 08/09 contributions will be sent out September/October.
- The grant application submitted to California Coastal Conservancy for funding support in the amount of \$100,000 (Valley Vision contract) for Delta Trail outreach and planning in Solano and Contra Costa counties, including administrative funding support for Commission staffing, is scheduled for consideration on September 25, 2008. The item is on the consent agenda and award approval is anticipated. *(see correspondence agenda item for letters of support received)*
- Submitting grant application, by deadline date of September 30, 2008, in the amount of \$100,000 for Solano County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Funds for completion of a Delta Trail link and interpretive signage between the Bay Trail and Bay Ridge Trail, and the Benicia State Parks Recreation area, including administrative funding support for Commission staffing. Grant partners include State Parks/Diablo Vista District, Willis Linn Jepson Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, City of Benicia and City of Vallejo, Greater Vallejo Recreation District. Staff drafted Memorandum of Understanding between grant partners for inclusion in grant package to assure commitment and participation in proposed project.
- Awaiting outcome notification from Caltrans (pending signing of State Budget) regarding DPC partnership grant application in the amount of \$300,000 submitted for Delta Trail planning, including administrative funding support for Commission staffing.
- Participated in meetings with Contra Costa County board members and staff, facilitated by Senator Torlakson, to explore funding support for Delta Trail planning in Contra Costa County.

#### Administration/Staffing

- Interviews are being conducted for the Environmental Planner position vacated upon Suzanne Butterfield's retirement from state service in July. Ms. Butterfield has continued working part-time as a retired annuitant until the position is filled but not later than December 2008.

- Kirsten Holder from UC Berkeley, has filled the Graduate Student position left vacant upon the departure of Alex Westhoff to complete his three-month fellowship studying and touring deltas abroad.
- Jessica Becerra is continuing to provide administrative clerical support in the Student Assistant position while she continues her studies at California State University, Sacramento.

### Legislation

- SB 27: Participated in meetings facilitated by Senator Simitian's staff relative to Delta Emergency Planning and Response. Language resulting from meetings that also included local and state entities has been incorporated into the legislation which is now on the Governor's desk for signature.
- AB 2504: Provided information support to Assemblyman DeSaulnier's staff relative to Delta branding and marketing. Final language of the legislation, which included revisions recommended by local entities including Solano County, is now on the Governor's desk for signature.

### Projects/Facilitation

- The Commission's Management Plan Update process is continuing to move forward pursuant to consultation from the Center for Collaborative Policy. Two public workshops were held in the Delta in July and several more are anticipated in October. A Planning Advisory Team has been formed and includes members with expertise in the areas of agriculture, planning and policy, recreation, fish and wildlife, boating, and water and flood control.
- Lower Yolo Bypass Planning Forum, co-sponsored by the Commission and the Yolo Basin Foundation is continuing to meet and encourage public participation, including local government input. Most recent meeting was held on September 24, 2008.
- Prepared draft Climate Change and Vulnerability Assessment and Resiliency Plan relative to the Commission's Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta for submittal to Resources Agency pursuant to request for input to develop a coordinated approach.
- Facilitated funding support consideration from Delta Mercury TMDL Collaborative members pursuant to request from State Water Board, Central Valley Region in order to assure a facilitated stakeholder input process.

- Facilitating consideration of funding from State Lands Commission for Delta Trail link as component of Greater Vallejo Recreation District Glen Cove Waterfront Park along Carquinez Strait.
- Work is continuing on the development of a draft white paper discussing the potential for a Delta Agricultural Conservation Easement Program utilizing input from the discussion group convened by the Commission, including county ag commissioners, farm advisors, habitat conservation program managers, land trust, planners and other interested parties.
- Continuing to participate in Delta Vision process and facilitating presentations for the Commission relative to Delta initiatives including Bay Delta Conservation Plan and the State Water Plan Update.

#### Public Affairs/Outreach

- Made a presentation to the Delta Counties Coalition Technical Advisory Committee about activities currently underway by the Commission.
- Met with Department of Water Resources Flood Control and Emergency Planning staff to discuss ways to enhance communication and coordination.
- Made presentation on the Management Plan Update to the CALFED Agency Coordination Team.
- Met with State Parks planning staff to discuss coordination on National Heritage Area and Delta Trail planning and development.
- Facilitated input from Commission Member state entities for exhibit development by the Discover the Delta Foundation for the Delta Discovery Center.
- Participated in Resources Agency Department Director meetings.
- Participated in Resources Agency and Department of Water Resources PIO Team meetings.